



# FACT SHEET



BMDO FACT SHEET 210-00-11

Replaces Fact Sheet 210-99-02

## ***MEDIUM EXTENDED AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM***

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the coming decades, NATO is likely to become increasingly engaged in maintaining and restoring regional peace, often in an international coalition. To undertake this mission with the greatest chance of success, NATO forces must be able to rapidly deploy to regional crises, work with allied forces, conduct fast moving ground combat, and protect themselves from air and missile attack.

The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization's (BMDO) Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS) program, previously referred to as Corps Surface to Air Missile (SAM), is specifically designed to satisfy the requirement for limited area defense and the protection of maneuver forces against the increasing threat of tactical ballistic missiles (TBMs) and air-breathing targets, including cruise missiles.

### **MISSION**

MEADS will defend troops and fixed assets from short range ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and other air breathing threats such as aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicles. MEADS role in the ballistic missile defense architecture will be to bridge the gap between man portable systems like the Stinger and the higher levels of the missile defense structure like the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) or the Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system while providing continuous coverage for rapidly advancing maneuver forces.

MEADS will also help U.S. forces work in conjunction with the forces of our allies. Since the U.S., Germany, and Italy are planning to co-develop and use MEADS, its

commonality of system design will contribute to the interoperability of U.S. and allied forces.

MEADS' defining characteristic will be tactical and strategic mobility. In other words, its ability to be easily deployed to a theater and, once there, its ability to keep pace with fast moving maneuver forces. When completed, MEADS will be the only missile defense system able to roll off transports with the troops and immediately begin operations. Moreover, MEADS will have greater firepower and require less manpower than its predecessors.

### **SYSTEM DESCRIPTION**

MEADS will be a mobile surface to air missile (SAM) system designed to provide a lower tier defense for troops and installations against a sophisticated suite of threats. Mounted on a wheeled vehicle, MEADS will use a multi-canister vertical launcher to protect and launch its interceptors. MEADS will have advanced radars to provide 360 degree coverage. The MEADS missile will be hit-to-kill, will destroy TBMs, and have a lethality enhanced warhead for use against air breathing targets.

All components will be linked by state of the art communications and will have access to a broad range of sensors from other systems and services. MEADS will use a distributed/netted architecture and module components that will allow a MEADS unit to be task-organized and configured according to the expected threat and planned tactics. These abilities will ensure that MEADS is part of the overall Air Defense/Theater Missile



NOVEMBER 2000

## SYSTEM DESCRIPTION [CONTINUED]

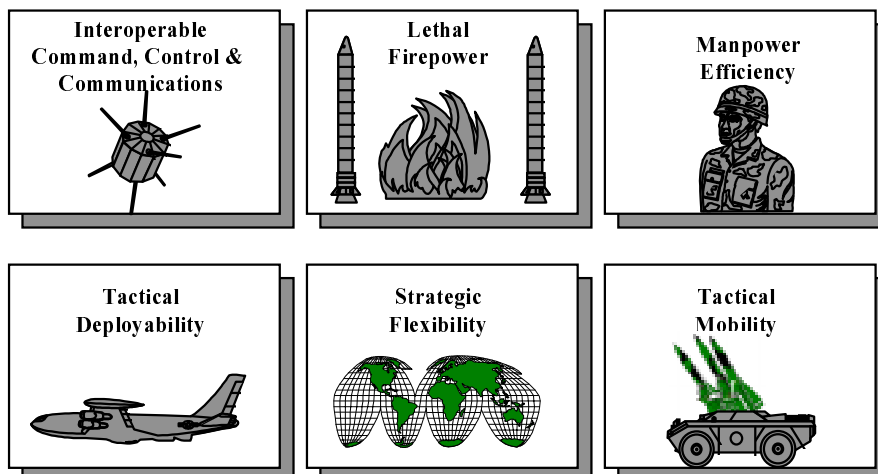
Defense architecture and compatible with other Army, joint, and allied systems. The system is also designed to decrease U.S. strategic lift requirements for theater missile defense systems.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Medium Extended Air Defense System traces its U.S. origins to the Corps SAM project of the late 1980s and early 1990s. Corps SAM, a joint Army and Marine Corps program, was intended to replace the rapidly aging HAWK air defense system that had been in service since the early 1960s. The Army and Marine Corps started Corps SAM in recognition of their common need to find a new air defense system against air and theater short to medium range missiles that can be rapidly deployed anywhere in the world.

The MEADS program represents an important international cooperative initiative. In the early 1990s, Germany expressed an interest in joining the Corps SAM program and cooperating on system development and production. Like the U.S., German interest stemmed from a need to replace aging HAWK systems. Soon afterward, France and then Italy came forward to express their interest in joining. The four partners agreed to work toward creating this new international venture. One of the first concrete steps in this cooperation came with the signing of a joint Statement of Intent in February 1995. At this point, Corps SAM became officially known as MEADS. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in May 1996 to commence the Project Definition-Validation (PD-V). However, France dropped out of the program prior to the signing of the MOU. In June 1996 the Management Organization charter was established under NATO.

MEADS' international nature gives the program a high potential to promote interoperability of U.S. and allied forces



and to help trans-Atlantic defense cooperation. In turn, this could reinforce good relations between the U.S. and Europe. Indeed, MEADS reaffirms the United States' commitment to stay involved in European security affairs and could spark a renaissance in trans-Atlantic cooperation.

## PROGRAMMATICS

The U.S. and its European partners have agreed to split work shares and development costs by a ratio of 60%, 25%, and 15% for the U.S., Germany, and Italy, respectively, although each party has only made commitments to the PD-V phase. The February 1995 Statement of Intent reaffirmed this agreement and laid out the method to manage the procurement process. According to the agreement, a multilateral Steering Committee will supervise the NATO MEADS Management Agency that will provide program oversight. The position of General Manager will rotate between the two European participants, with Germany providing the first General Manager, Brigadier General H. K. Meunier. The U.S. will provide the Deputy General Manager. Additional NATO countries may join the MEADS effort if all participating countries approve.

The Statement of Intent also detailed the process that will be used to choose a contracting team to build the system. The process paired two U.S. teams, one led by Hughes & Raytheon and the other by Lockheed Martin, with two European teams, each comprised of Daimler-Benz, Siemens, and Alenia. The two resulting international teams will ultimately compete for the final contract.

The MEADS project will pass through three phases: PD-V, Design and Development (D&D), and Production. MEADS is currently in the first stage, PD-V. The objective of PD-V is to produce a system specification, a primary end item specification document, and a cooperative program plan for the common development and production of MEADS. The participating countries will negotiate a MOU for each of these three phases.

Should the decision be made to allocate resources to move MEADS through to the Production phase, low rate initial production could start in 2003. Following operational test and evaluation of these initial systems, MEADS could enter full rate production. The first MEADS units could reach the field as early as 2007.

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